

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAR ES 03668 261057Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
TRSE-00 OMB-01 /065 W
-----119808 262327Z /75

R 260617Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9635
INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY VICTORIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DAR ES SALAAM 3668

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, SE, TZ
SUBJECT: SEYCHELLES PRESIDENT VISITS TANZANIA

REF: VICTORIA 747

1. AUGUST 13-20 STATE VISIT TO TANZANIA BY SEYCHELLES
PRESIDENT RENE WAS LOW-KEY EVENT TO WHICH ATTENTION WAS
OCCASIONALLY DRAWN BY RENE'S APPARENT CONCERNS ABOUT
SEYCHELLES' SECURITY AND A STATEMENT ABOUT TANZANIAN
SECURITY ASSISTANCE.

2. AT A STATE DINNER SOON AFTER ARRIVAL RENE SAID THE
SEYCHELLES HAD CHOSEN TO BUILD A SOCIALIST STATE BASED ON
PRINCIPLES OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND SELF-RELIANCE. HE
MENTIONED THAT THERE WERE OPPONENTS OF THIS POLICY.
"THEREFORE WE HAVE TO BE ETERNALLY VIGILANT IN ORDER TO
ENSURE THE SUCCESS OF THE WAY OF LIFE THAT WE HAVE CHOSE,
TANZANIA HAS NOT HESITATED TO HELP US AND WE ARE GRATEFUL."
IN REPLY, NYERERE DID NOT ACKNOWLEDGE THIS PART OF RENE'S
REMARKS BUT DID CONGRATULATE RENE FOR FOILING THE RECENT
"PLOT" AGAINST RENE'S GOVERNMENT.

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3. RENE EMPHASIZED VIGILANCE AGAINST MERCENARIES AT A
PRE-DEPARTURE PRESS CONFERENCE AUGUST 20. HE CALLED
MERCENARIES THE GREATEST CONTEMPORARY THREAT TO PROGRESSIVE
COUNTRIES IN AFRICA. RENE REPORTEDLY SAID THAT 200
MERCENAIRES HAD BEEN RECRUITED FOR ACTION IN THE INDIAN
OCEAN. FIFTY, HE SAID, WERE IN THE COMOROS. THAT LEFT

150 WHO MIGHT OR MIGHT NOT BE AROUND. "AFTER WE TOOK SOME STEPS IN THE SEYCHELLES TO BREAK THEIR LINE OF COMMUNICATION THEY MAY HAVE DECIDED TO GO ELSEWHERE." DURING THE PRESS CONFERENCE HE REPORTEDLY SAID THAT HE HAD NEVER ACCUSED THE GOVERNMENT OF KENYA OF INVOLVEMENT IN A MERCENARY FORCE THAT SAILED FROM MOBASA ABOUT TWO MONTHS AGO TO TRY TO INVADE THE SEYCHELLES. HE ALSO SAID THAT FACILITIES IN THE SEYCHELLES WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE TO THE US AND USSR TO EXPAND THEIR MILITARY PRESENCE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN.

4. RENE HAD SESSIONS WITH PRESIDENT NYERERE AT THE BEGINNING AND END OF HIS VISIT WHICH, ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, COVERED BILATERAL MATTERS AND SOUTHERN AFRICA.

5. RENE'S VISIT RECEIVED ROUTINE TANGOV TREATMENT. HE WAS HAILED AS A FELLOW SOCIALIST (TANZANIA'S NEWS AGENCY CALLED HIM THE "FOUNDING FATER" OF SOCIALISM IN THE SEYCHELLES). HIS PROGRAM INCLUDED ZANZIBAR, GAME PARKS, A NATIONAL SERVICE CAMP, AND SOME SMALL INDUSTRIES. RENE, NO STRANGER TO TANZANIA, COMMENTED TO AN EMBASSY OFFICER EARLY IN THE VISIT THAT HE WAS FINDING HIS VISIT A LITTLE "TOURISTIC."
SPAIN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NATIONAL SECURITY, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978DARES03668
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780350-0668
Format: TEL
From: DAR ES SALAAM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780820/aaaaaqdp.tel
Line Count: 85
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7238f25a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 VICTORIA 747
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1611528
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SEYCHELLES PRESIDENT VISITS TANZANIA
TAGS: PEPR, SE, TZ, (RENE, FRANCE ALBERT)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7238f25a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014